From: Simmons, Denise
To: Barbara Sinclair; stephen_walt@harvard.edu; meghan_osullivan@hks.harvard.edu
Subject: Re: Cambridge Council Middle-East Issue
Date: Thursday, April 19, 2018 2:23:53 PM

Dear Ms. Sinclair,

Thank you for your email. So far, I have not yet seen an actual draft of the proposed resolution asking the City to cease purchasing HP equipment and supplies. I understand there's been a great deal of concern in the community about this matter – yet I must underscore that **this will only appear on the City Council's April 23 agenda if one or more City Councilors sponsor it.** We will not know if it is on the agenda until either a City Councilor publicly declares that they'll be sponsoring this (to my knowledge, this has not happened), or until the agenda is finalized by the Clerk's Office and posted online this Thursday evening around 5:30 pm (indeed, the latest I'm hearing is that the organization looking to have this sponsored may be recalculating as to when they think this can be introduced). I can, at the very least, confirm that *I* am not a sponsor of such a resolution.

There have been numerous passionate op-eds, emails, and social media posts condemning the City Council for rushing this to a vote without adequate opportunities for the public to weigh in, or even giving people a chance to read the resolution. Some people have condemned the City Council for seemingly being on the brink of passing this resolution, or for seemingly being on the brink of rejecting it. Neither scenario is accurate. While I understand the passion behind this matter, I must clarify that we do not yet actually have a resolution or policy order in front of us, there has been absolutely no debate about this amongst the City Councilors, and the City Council will not have an opportunity to take this up for consideration unless and until a resolution is sponsored by at least one of us and introduced at a public meeting. At this point, I am not yet certain if such a resolution will be introduced or not.

I appreciate your reaching out and sharing your views on this. I am currently reading up on this issue to be better informed, I am reviewing all the emails and letters coming in about this issue, and I am reaching out to our representatives in Congress to seek their input on an issue that is more international than municipal in scope. Should this matter end up on before the City Council – either on April 23 or at a later date – I will look forward to engaging in a thoughtful discussion and debate with my colleagues on the Council and then seeing how to best resolve this matter in a way that allows everyone to feel they have had a fair chance to be heard. Thank you.

E. Denise Simmons

From: Barbara Sinclair <barb.sinclair@verizon.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2018 11:44 AM
To: stephen_walt@harvard.edu; meghan_osullivan@hks.harvard.edu
Cc: Zondervan, Quinton; Toomey, Tim; Simmons, Denise; Siddiqui, Sumbul; Mallon, Alanna; Carlone, Dennis; Kelley, Craig; Devereux, Jan; McGovern, Marc
Subject: Cambridge Council Middle-East Issue

Dear Stephen and Meghan,
As knowledgeable faculty at Harvard, I'm hoping you'll consider my request to share your insights and opinions with the current Cambridge City Council which is about to draft a request to boycott HP for doing business with Israel (an inappropriate initiative that may foster charges of anti-Semitism). I hope that by gaining some legitimate insights from you both, they'll reconsider.

I'm copying the council members on this request so they, or you, can easily reach out (to you or suggested representatives) and gain a broader understanding of the current realities in the Middle East.

As a long time proud Cambridge resident, past executive at Motorola, Lucent, several technology start-ups, and past student at Harvard, I'm dismayed by this intended action of our city council. Many thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully, Barbara Sinclair
barb.sinclair@verizon.net
246 Brattle St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 876-7904

*** 4/19 copy of letter to council members:**
Dear Council Members,
As a long time Cambridge resident I have praised the efforts of our community and city representatives to friends and acquaintances alike. I was always proud to be a Cambridge citizen until now. Your council efforts to discredit a company for doing business with Israel is shameful. Moving ahead with this embarrassing council effort will display your lack of International issues and worse - may infer an Anti-Semitic bias!

I respectfully request that you each take the time to better understand the reality of the Middle-East and use your positions to enhance our city instead. Your obvious ignorance of the way the Palestinian situation has been used by their Arab neighbors to deflect attention from their own abuses of civil rights – using the Palestinians as pawns - has furthered the role of Hamas and Iran to expand a brutal and anti-American ideology. You're playing right into their hands!

May I suggest you act as the democratic organization your role requires, and hold an open forum before you draft any resolution condemning HP or Israel. You have an educated International resource at hand at Harvard, and can easily gain knowledgeable insights from specialists who will expand your understanding of the intent and actions of Hamas. Please

request a briefing.

As a group that has a duty to represent residents of Cambridge, you owe it to your constituency to reconsider this proposed action.